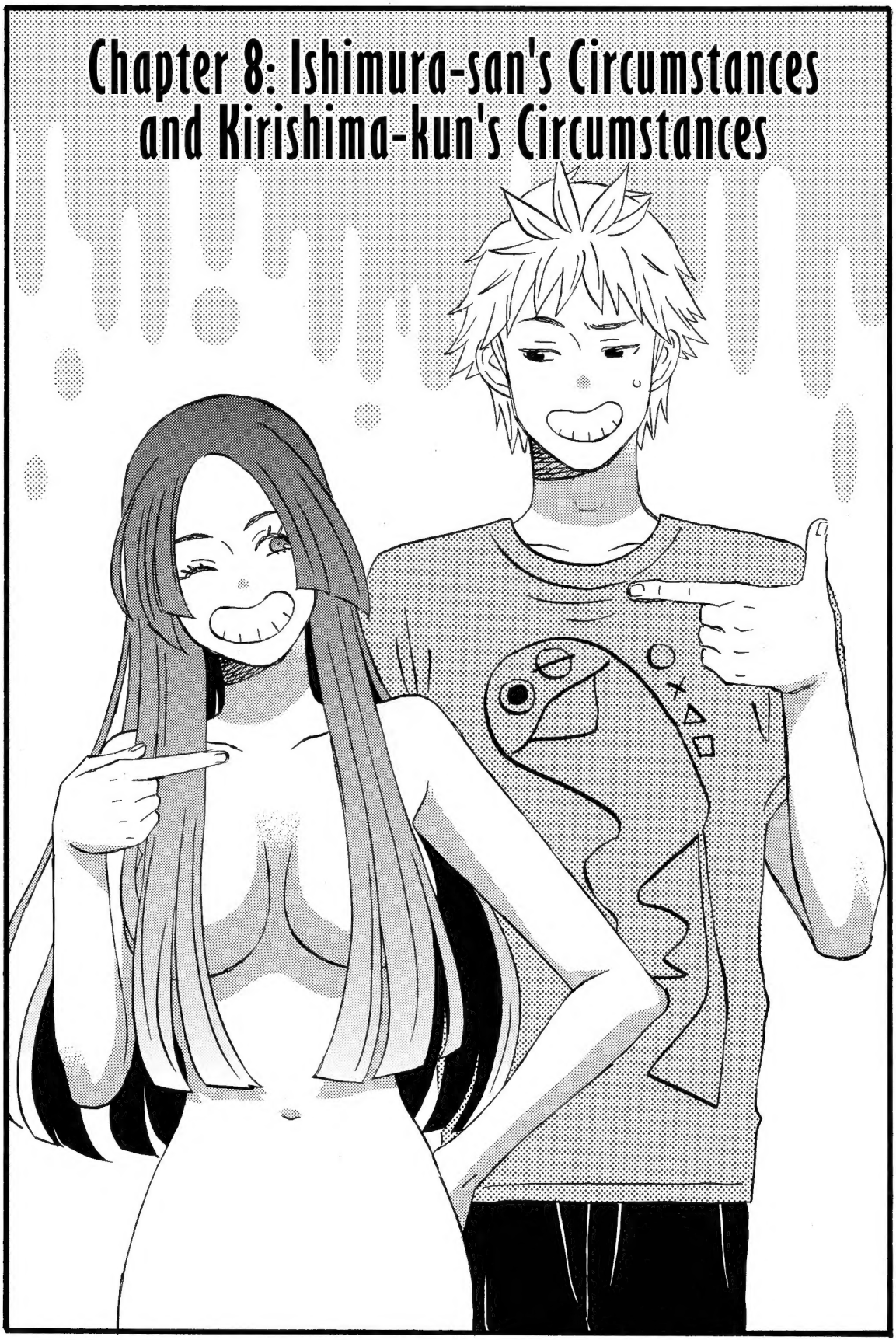
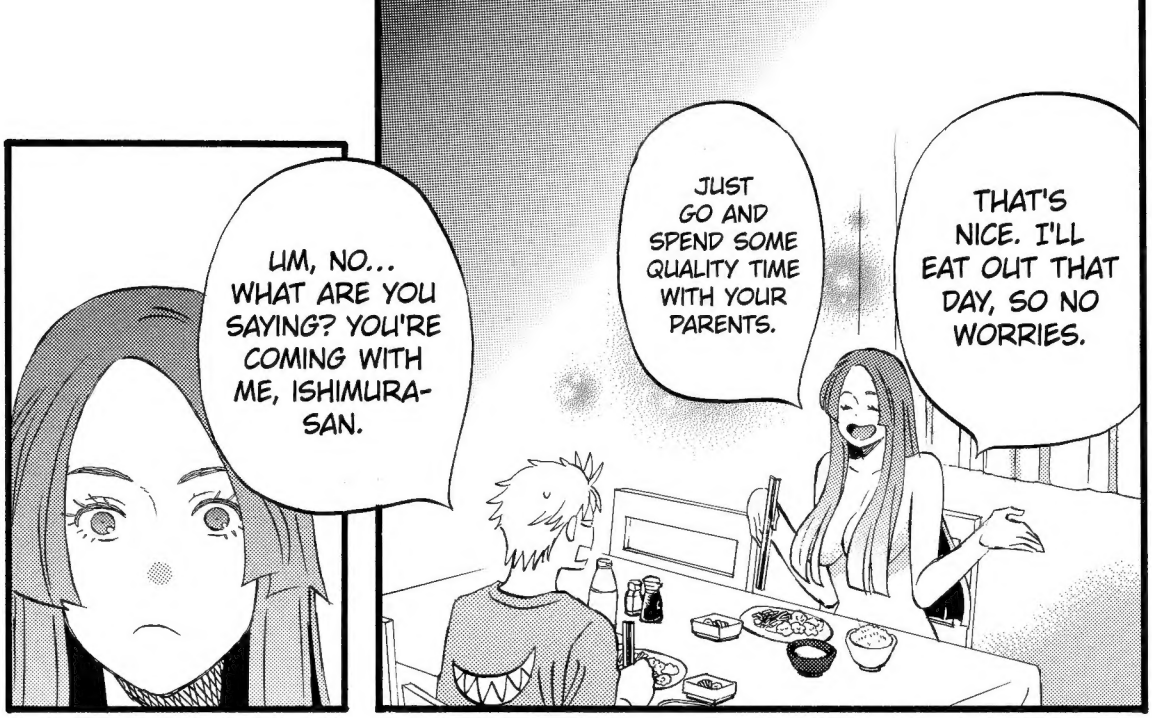
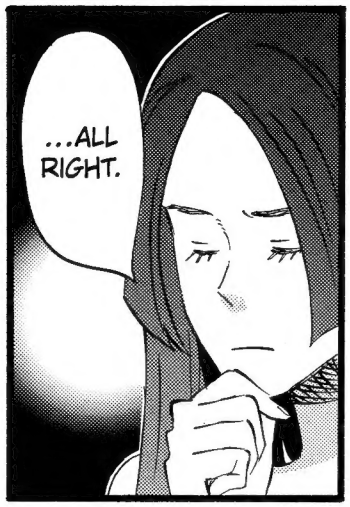
Chapter 8: Ishimura-san's Circumstances and Kirishima-kun's Circumstances

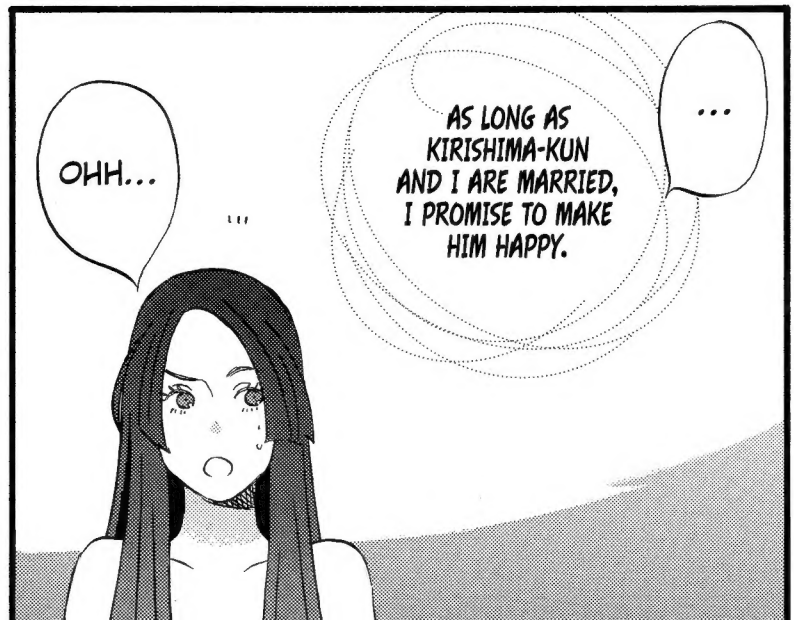


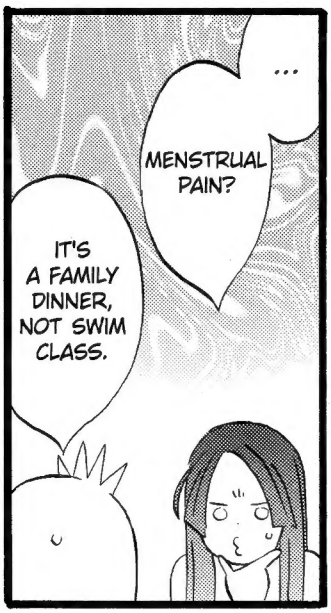
...IT SEEMS THEY'LL BE HAVING A FAMILY DINNER SOON.
OHH...

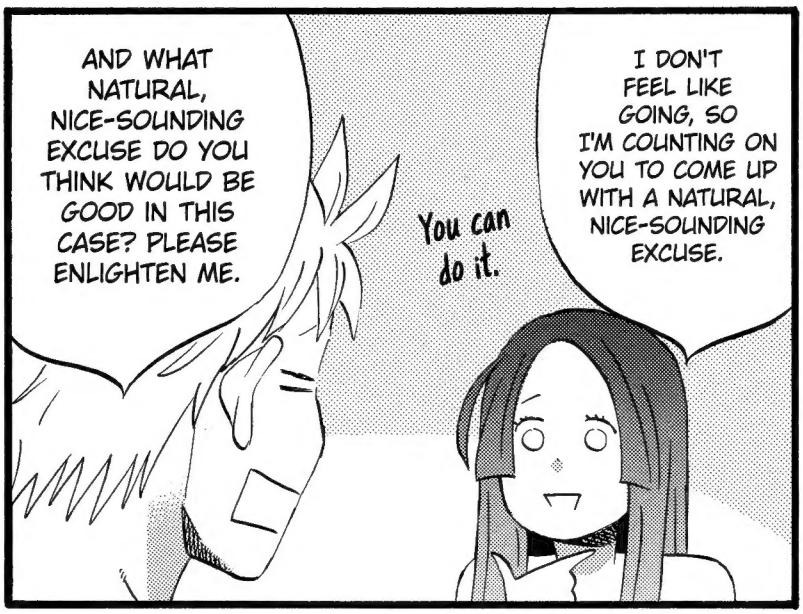

UM, NO... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, ISHIMURA-SAN.
JUST GO AND SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME WITH YOUR PARENTS.
THAT'S NICE. I'LL EAT OUT THAT DAY, SO NO WORRIES.

...GEE, I WONDER WHY.
...WHY DO I NEED TO GO? I DON'T GET IT.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE A CERTAIN SOMEONE TOLD MY MOM SOME REALLY UNNECES-SARY THINGS?


...ALL RIGHT.

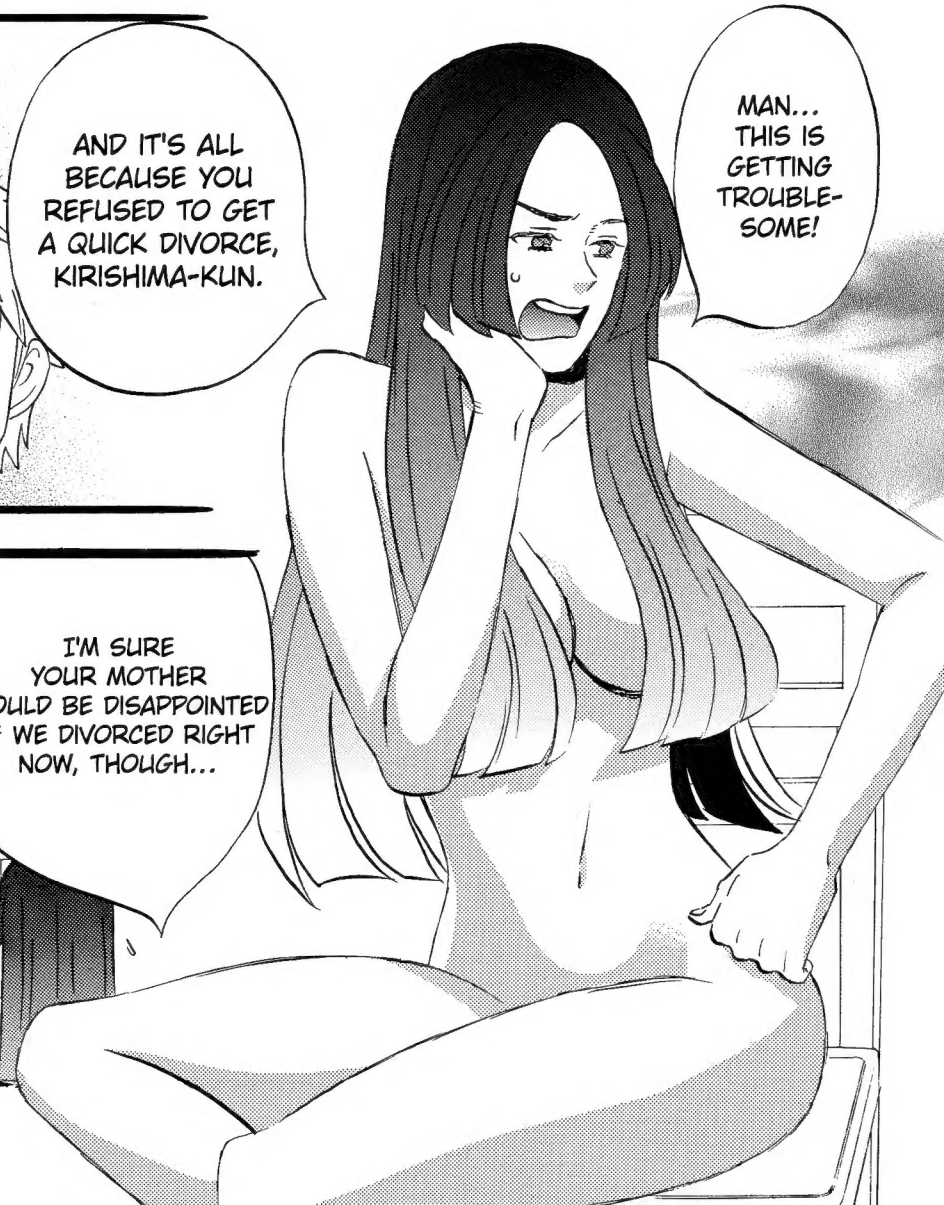

...
AS LONG AS KIRISHIMA-KUN AND I ARE MARRIED, I PROMISE TO MAKE HIM HAPPY.
OHH...


...
MENSTRUAL PAIN?
IT'S A FAMILY DINNER, NOT SWIM CLASS.

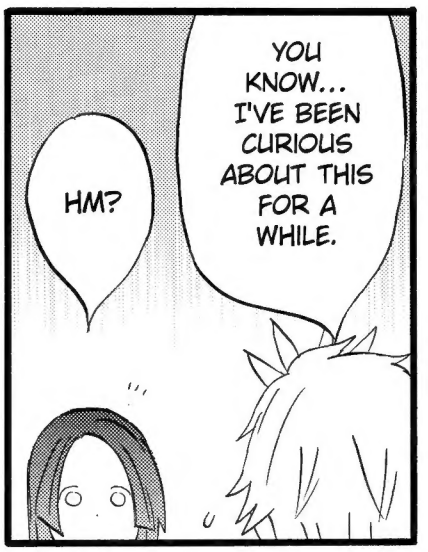

AND WHAT NATURAL, NICE-SOUNDING EXCUSE DO YOU THINK WOULD BE GOOD IN THIS CASE? PLEASE ENLIGHTEN ME.
You can do it.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING, SO I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO COME UP WITH A NATURAL, NICE-SOUNDING EXCUSE.

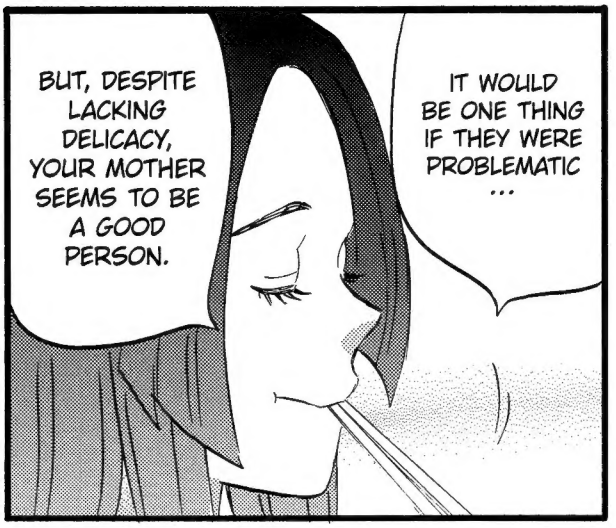
YOU'RE THE REASON WE'RE MARRIED AND LIVING TOGETHER TO BEGIN WITH!
AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU REFUSED TO GET A QUICK DIVORCE, KIRISHIMA-KUN.

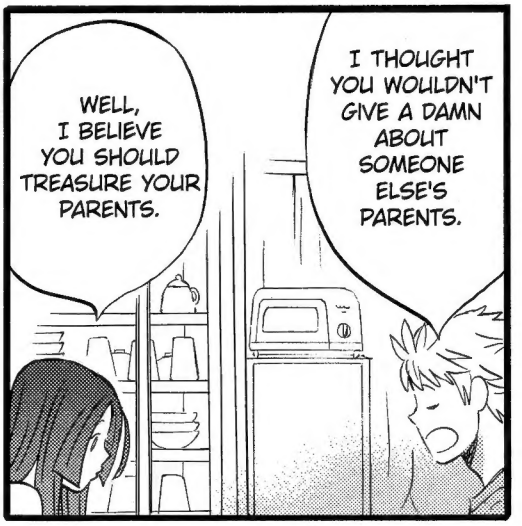
...
...


I'M SURE YOUR MOTHER WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IF WE DIVORCED RIGHT NOW, THOUGH...
MAN... THIS IS GETTING TROUBLE-SOME!

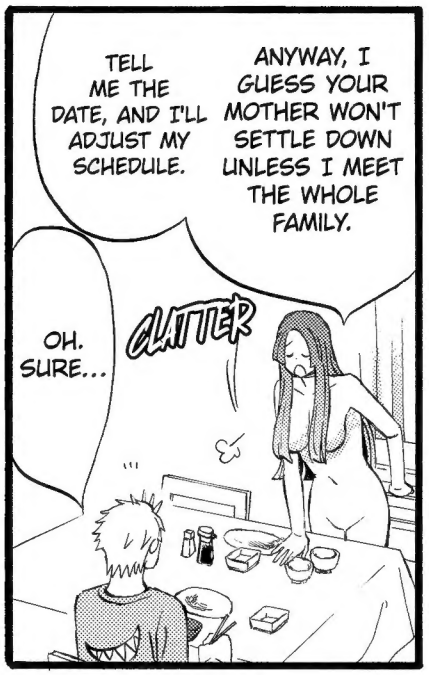
IT'S SURPRISING.
YOU'RE AN EXTREME INDIVIDUALIST WHO DOES EVERYTHING AT YOUR OWN PACE, AND YET YOU CARE.

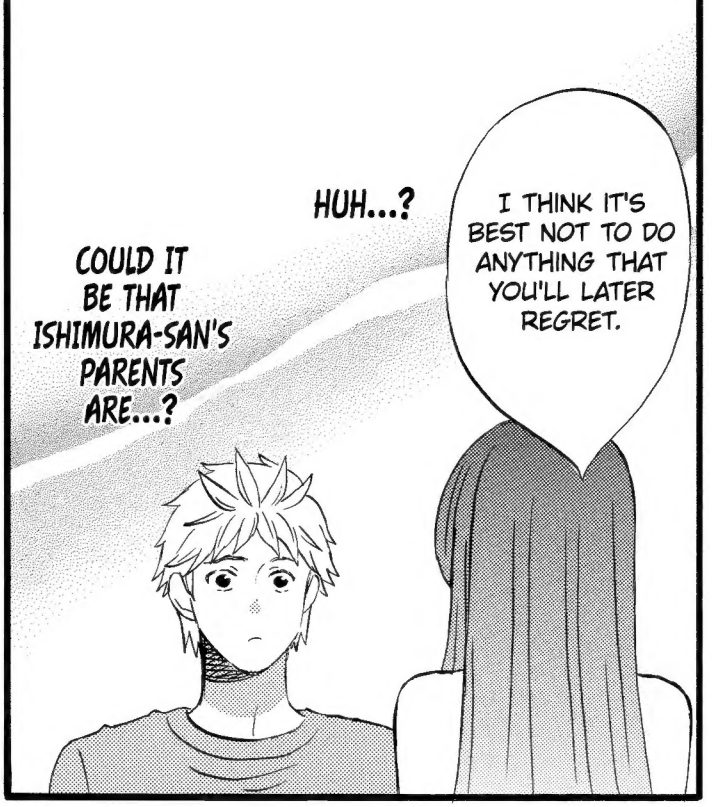

HM?
YOU KNOW... I'VE BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE.

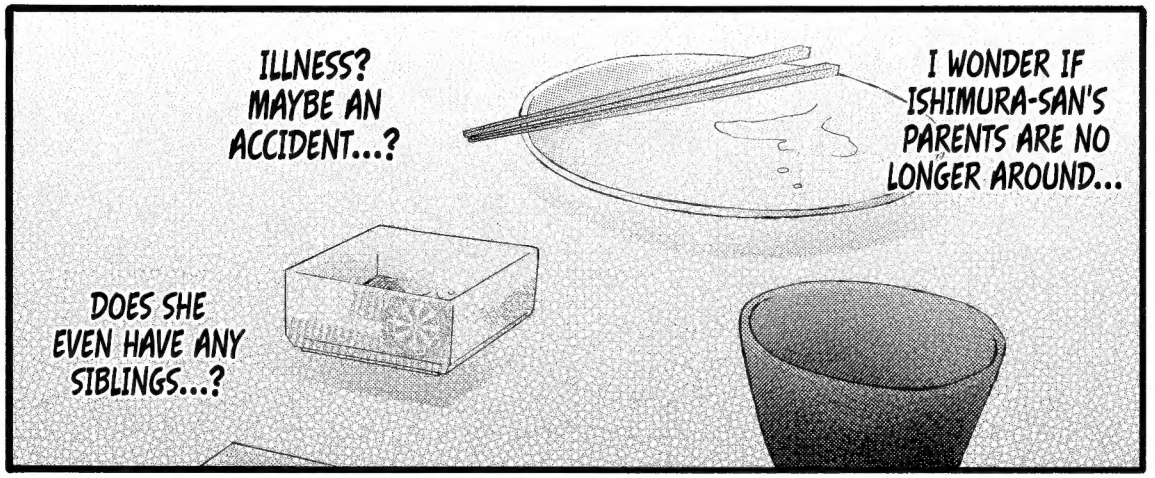

BUT, DESPITE LACKING DELICACY, YOUR MOTHER SEEMS TO BE A GOOD PERSON.
IT WOULD BE ONE THING IF THEY WERE PROBLEMATIC ...


WELL, I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD TREASURE YOUR PARENTS.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE'S PARENTS.

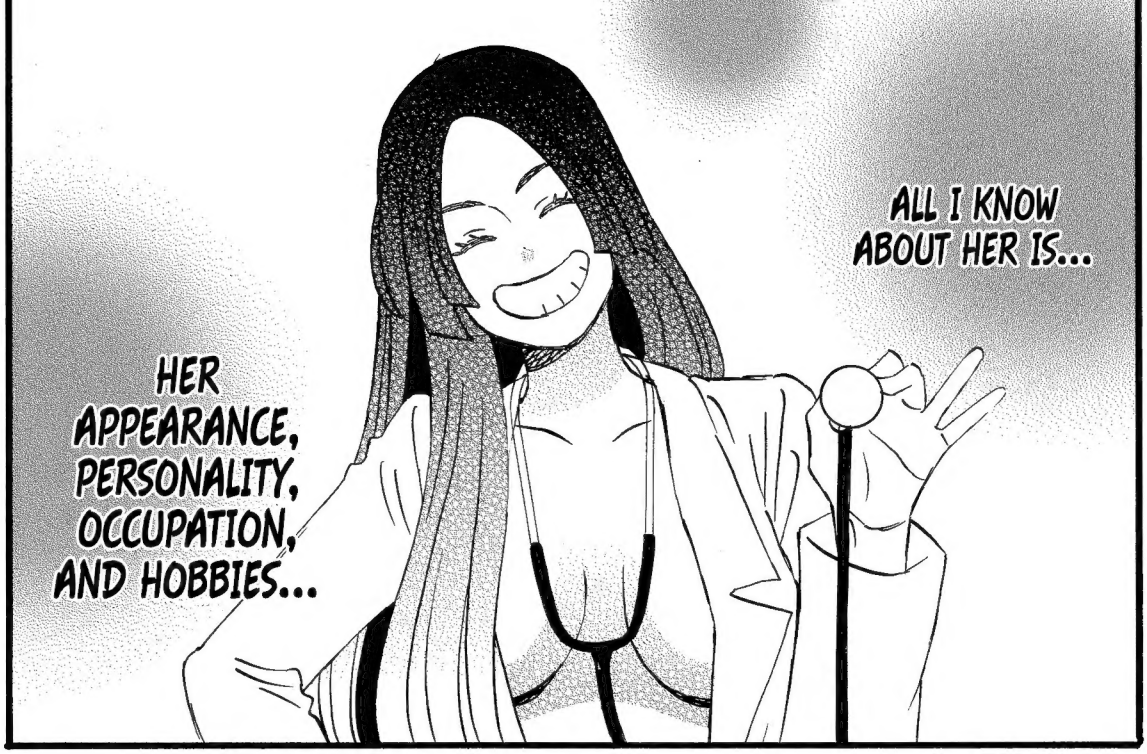
TAKING CARE OF YOUR PARENTS IS USUALLY SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO UNTIL YOU CAN'T ANYMORE.

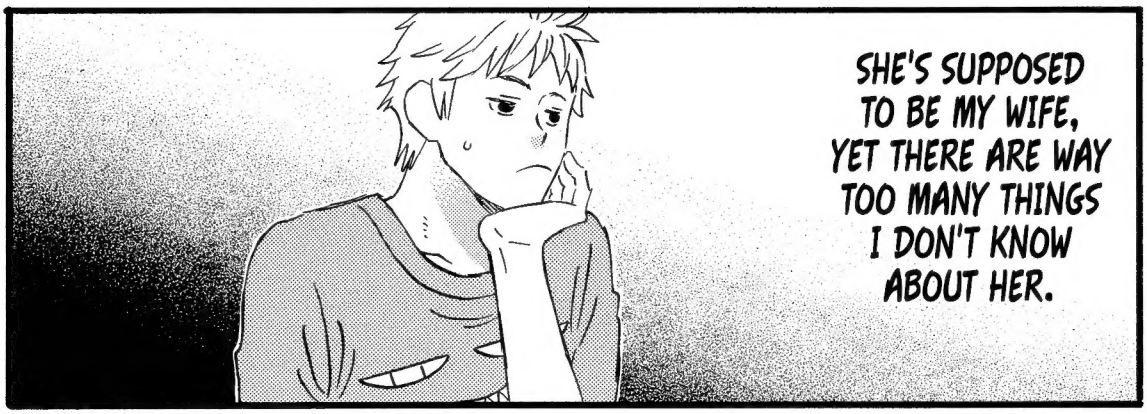

TELL ME THE DATE, AND I'LL ADJUST MY SCHEDULE.
ANYWAY, I GUESS YOUR MOTHER WON'T SETTLE DOWN UNLESS I MEET THE WHOLE FAMILY.
OH. SURE...
CLATTER

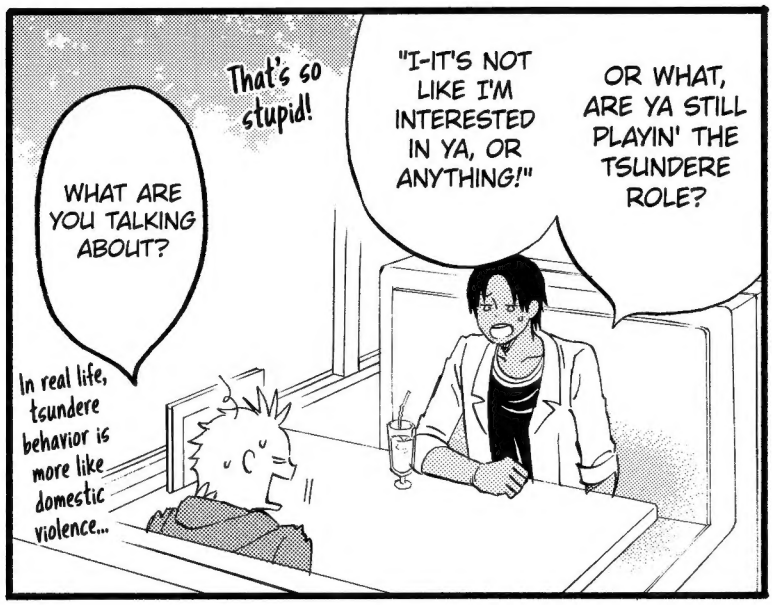

I THINK IT'S BEST NOT TO DO ANYTHING THAT YOU'LL LATER REGRET.
HUH...?
COULD IT BE THAT ISHIMURA-SAN'S PARENTS ARE...?


I WONDER IF ISHIMURA-SAN'S PARENTS ARE NO LONGER AROUND...
ILLNESS? MAYBE AN ACCIDENT...?
DOES SHE EVEN HAVE ANY SIBLINGS...?

THINKING ABOUT IT, EVEN THOUGH WE'VE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR A FEW WEEKS NOW...

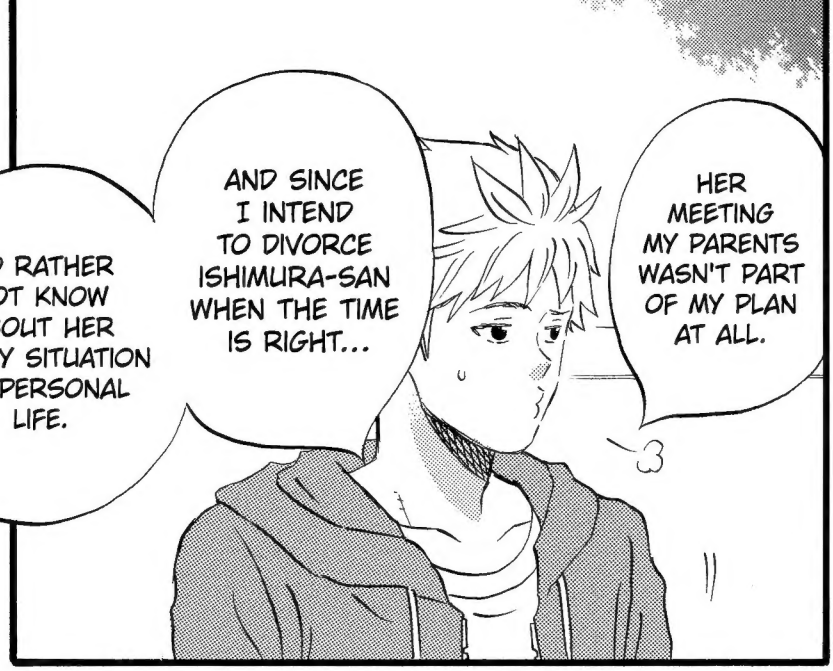

ALL I KNOW ABOUT HER IS...
HER APPEARANCE, PERSONALITY, OCCUPATION, AND HOBBIES...

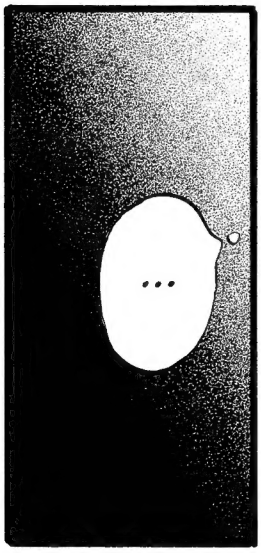

SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE MY WIFE, YET THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY THINGS I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HER.


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
That's so stupid!
"I-IT'S NOT LIKE I'M INTERESTED IN YA, OR ANYTHING!"
OR WHAT, ARE YA STILL PLAYIN' THE TSUNDERE ROLE?
In real life, tsundere behavior is more like domestic violence...

I'M SURE SHE'D TELL YA ABOUT HER FAMILY IF YA ASKED HER...

...


I'D RATHER NOT KNOW ABOUT HER FAMILY SITUATION OR PERSONAL LIFE.
AND SINCE I INTEND TO DIVORCE ISHIMURA-SAN WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT...
HER MEETING MY PARENTS WASN'T PART OF MY PLAN AT ALL.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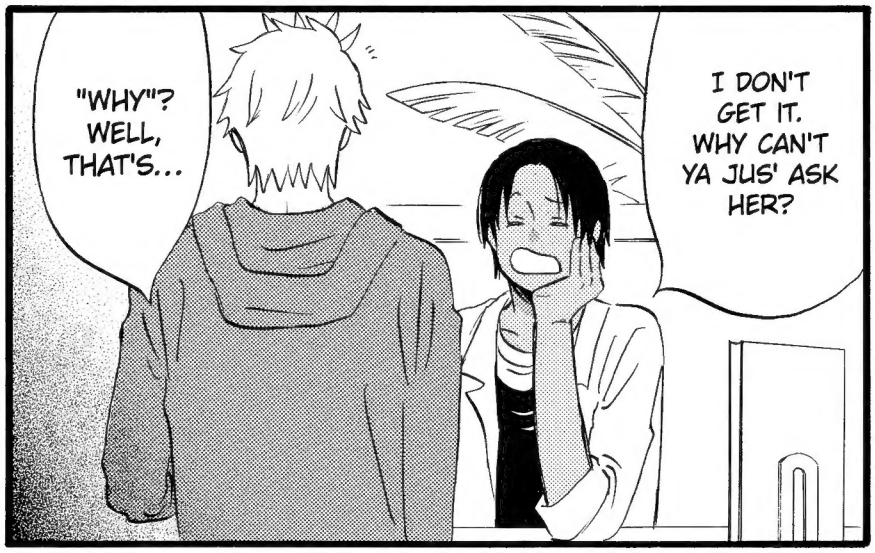
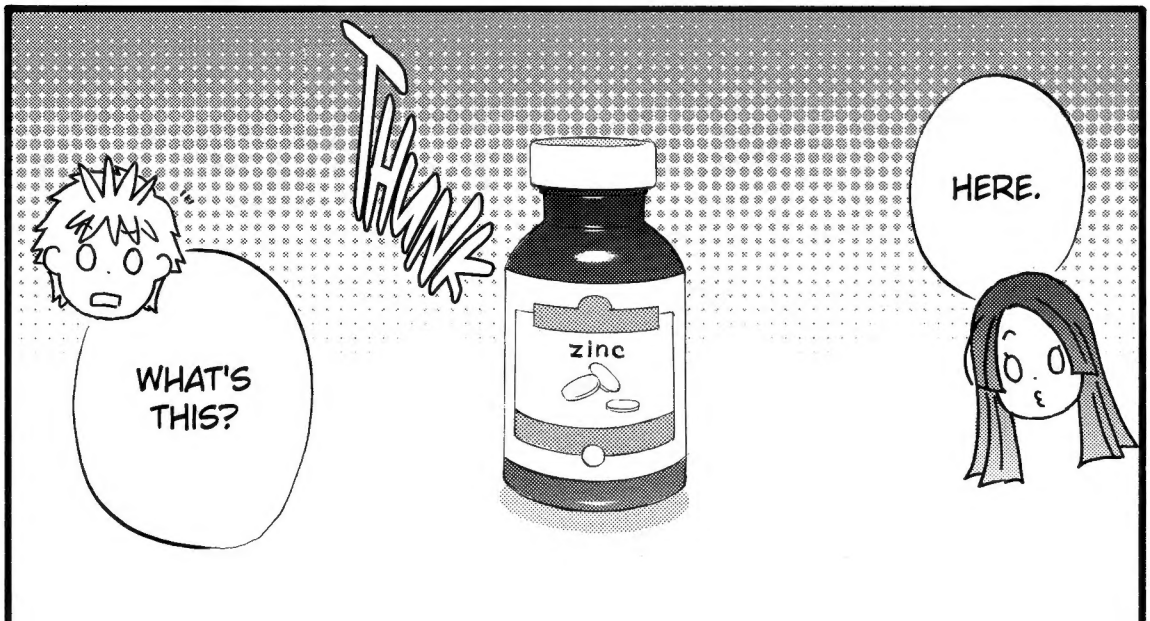
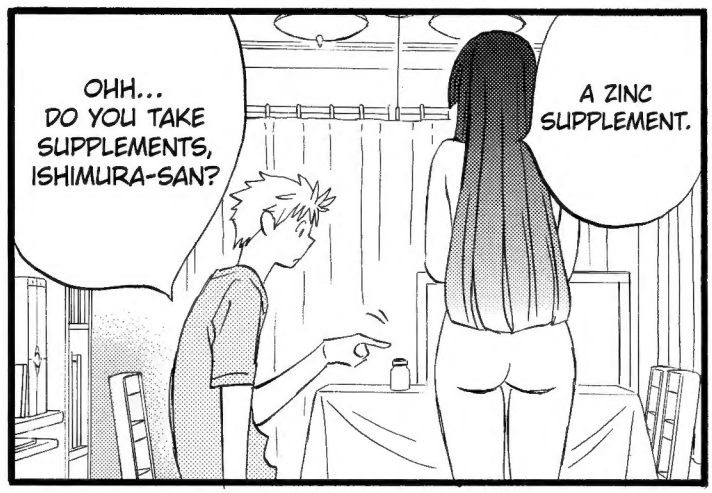
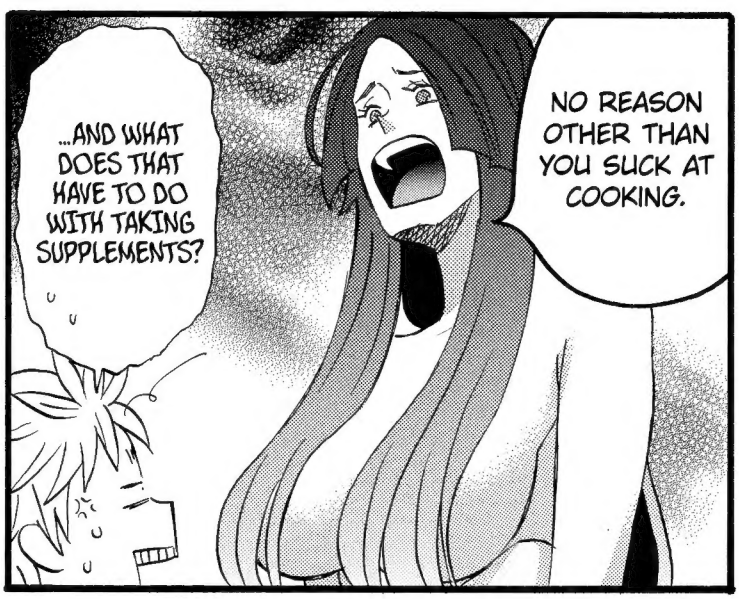

"WHY"? WELL, THAT'S...
I DON'T GET IT. WHY CAN'T YA JUS' ASK HER?


WHAT'S THIS?
THANK
zinc
HERE.

IT'S NOT FOR ME. IT'S FOR YOU.
HUH? WHY?!


OHH... DO YOU TAKE SUPPLEMENTS, ISHIMURA-SAN?
A ZINC SUPPLEMENT.

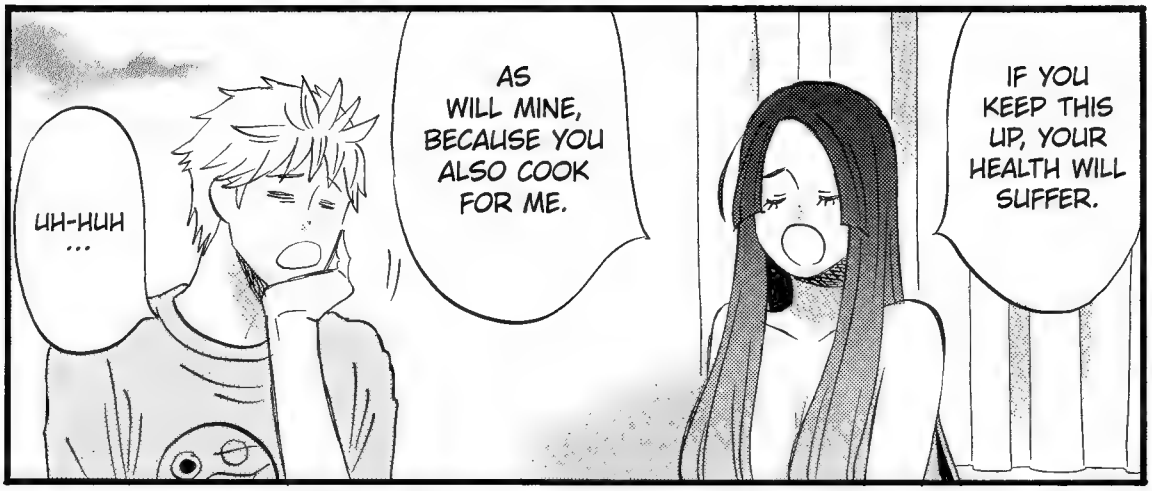
I CONSULTED WITH A COWORKER, WHO SUGGESTED THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE A TASTE DISORDER.
A ZINC DEFICIENCY CAN CAUSE THAT.
WHAAAT ...?


...AND WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH TAKING SUPPLEMENTS?
NO REASON OTHER THAN YOU SUCK AT COOKING.

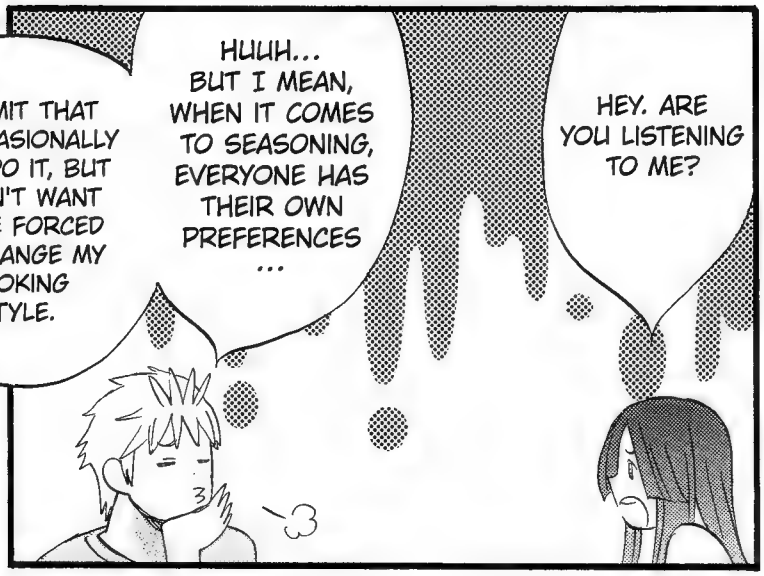
...SO YOU WENT TO HIM FOR ADVICE.
YEAH. IT WAS SAIGA-SENSEI.
WAS IT THE COWORKER FROM LAST TIME?
ACTUALLY, HE CAME TO ME.

YOU NEVER FOLLOW THE RECIPE, DO YOU?
ANYWAY, KIRISHIMA-KUN, THE WAY YOU OVERSEASON YOUR FOOD IS UNUSUAL.
...
HMPH...

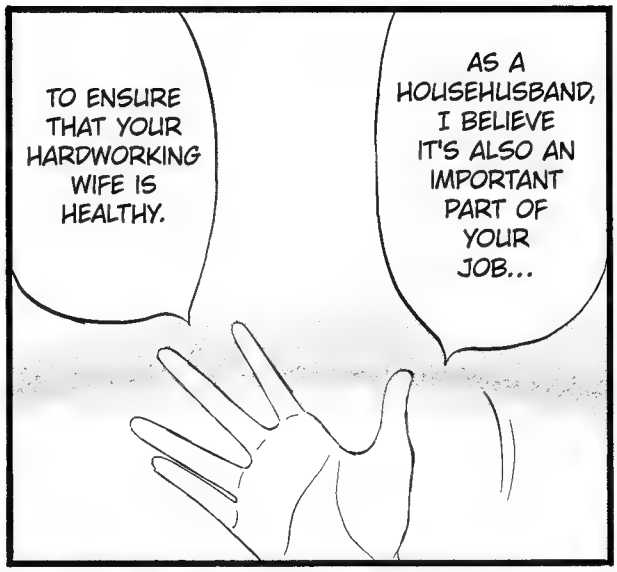
JUST IGNORE HIM, THEN.
HE'S ALWAYS ASKING ME, "IS THERE ANYTHING TROUBLING YOU?" IT'S KIND OF ANNOYING.
I CAN'T DO THAT. WE WORK TOGETHER.

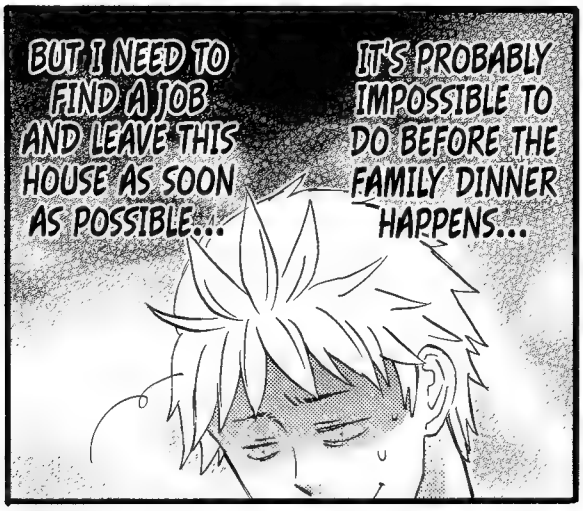

UH-HUH ...
AS WILL MINE, BECAUSE YOU ALSO COOK FOR ME.
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, YOUR HEALTH WILL SUFFER.

I DON'T EXACTLY DISAGREE WITH THAT WAY OF THINKING.
BUT...


I ADMIT THAT I OCCASIONALLY OVERDO IT, BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE FORCED TO CHANGE MY COOKING STYLE.
HUUH... BUT I MEAN, WHEN IT COMES TO SEASONING, EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN PREFERENCES ...
HEY. ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

BUT IF I LOSE MY SOURCE OF INCOME, IT'LL ALSO BECOME A PROBLEM FOR YOU.
IF I GET SICK AND CAN'T WORK, THAT WILL CAUSE TROUBLE FOR ME...

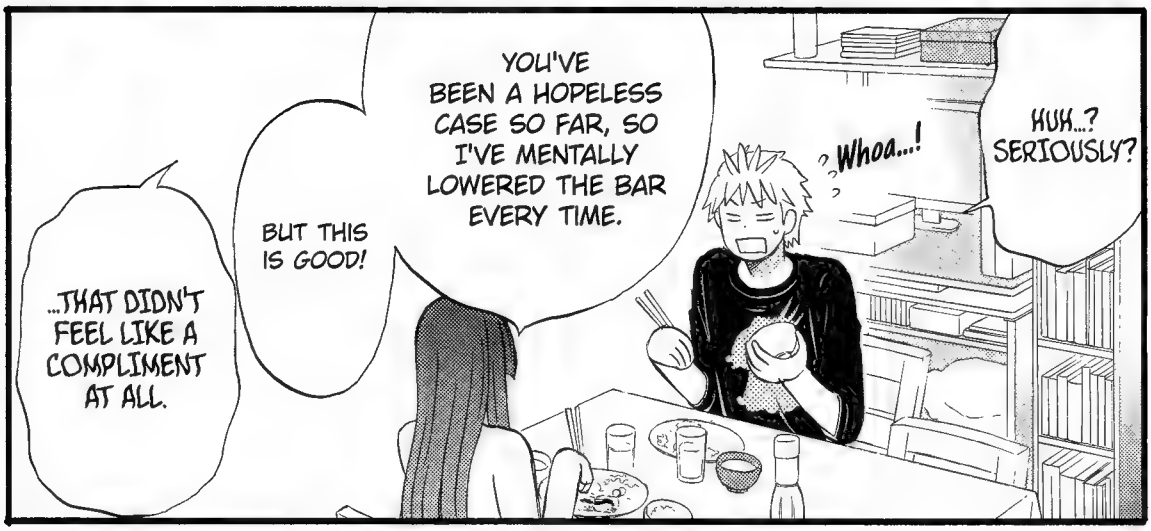

TO ENSURE THAT YOUR HARDWORKING WIFE IS HEALTHY.
AS A HOUSEHUSBAND, I BELIEVE IT'S ALSO AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR JOB...

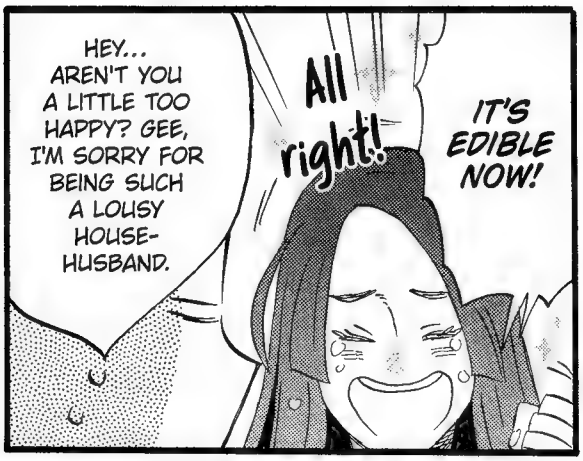

BUT I NEED TO FIND A JOB AND LEAVE THIS HOUSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
IT'S PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DO BEFORE THE FAMILY DINNER HAPPENS...

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE'LL BE MARRIED, BUT...
TRY TO MAKE THIS PART OF YOUR HOUSEHUSBAND DUTIES.
...CONDESCENDING AS ALWAYS...

SHE'S NOT INTERESTED, DUDE. JUST GIVE UP...
BESIDES, HAVING TO FOLLOW THAT POMPOUS ASSHOLE'S ADVICE REALLY PISSES ME OFF!
zinc

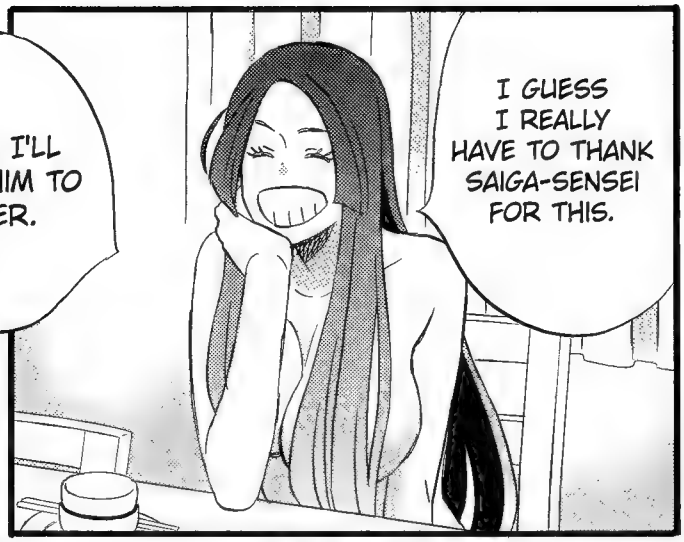
DELICIOUS!

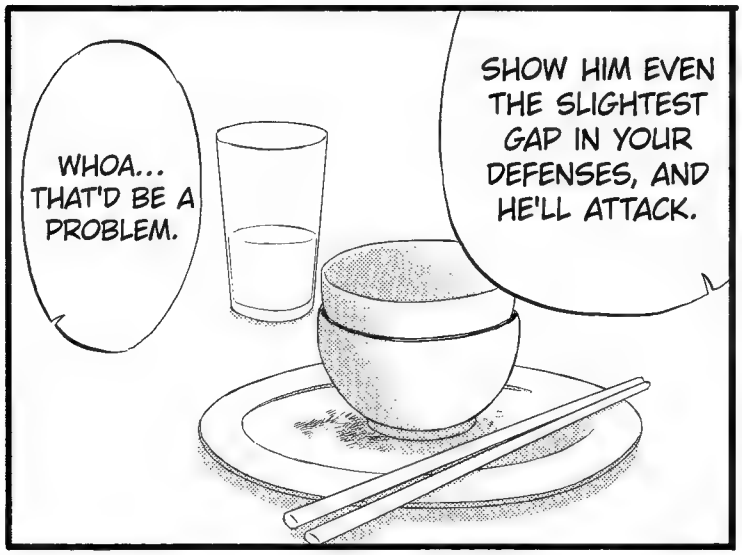

...THAT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE A COMPLIMENT AT ALL.
BUT THIS IS GOOD!
YOU'VE BEEN A HOPELESS CASE SO FAR, SO I'VE MENTALLY LOWERED THE BAR EVERY TIME.
Whoa...!
HUH...? SERIOUSLY?


HEY... AREN'T YOU A LITTLE TOO HAPPY? GEE, I'M SORRY FOR BEING SUCH A LOUSY HOUSE-HUSBAND.
All right!
IT'S EDIBLE NOW!

WHEEEW... I'M SO GLAD!
ALTHOUGH I WAS SKEPTICAL, I CONTINUED TO TAKE THE SUPPLEMENT. AND GUESS WHAT, IT DOES WORK...
It's kinda shocking...

...
MAYBE I'LL TREAT HIM TO DINNER.


I GUESS I REALLY HAVE TO THANK SAIGA-SENSEI FOR THIS.


WHOA... THAT'D BE A PROBLEM.
SHOW HIM EVEN THE SLIGHTEST GAP IN YOUR DEFENSES, AND HE'LL ATTACK.

HM? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
Y-YOU KNOW, THAT'S EXACTLY THE KIND OF THING THAT YOU SHOULDN'T DO.

HUUH...? WELL, IN THAT CASE...

A SIMPLE WORD OF "THANKS" WON'T CUT IT.
I'M GENUINELY GRATEFUL, SO...
I mean it. He saved my life!
HOW SHOULD I THANK HIM, THEN?

ドン
Bang
I'LL THANK HIM MYSELF!

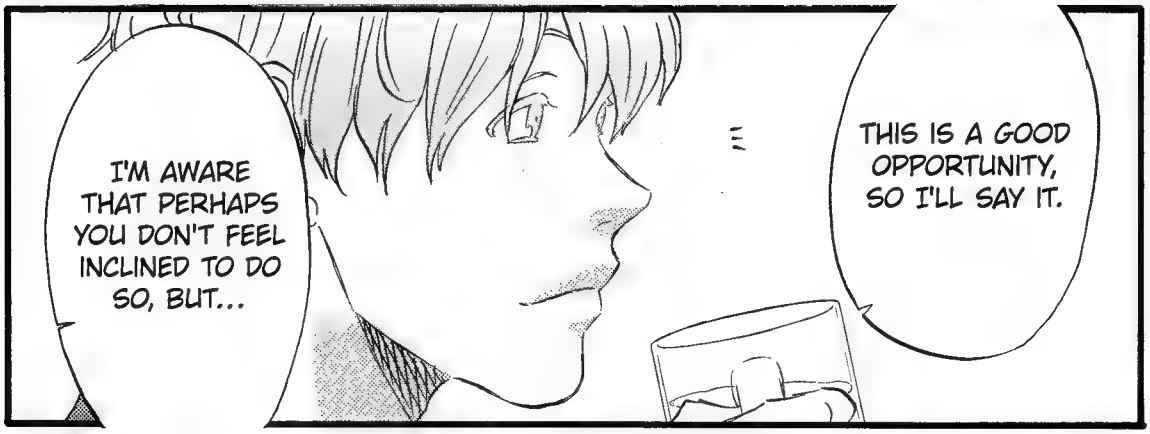
WOOOW... I'M SO HAPPY...

I SEE. SO YOUR TASTE DISORDER PROBLEM HAS BEEN RESOLVED ...
WELL THAT'S UNFORTUNATE.
SO IS HEARING YOU SAY THAT!
TCH!

I CERTAINLY DIDN'T EXPECT ISHIMURA-SAN'S HUSBAND TO INVITE ME TO DINNER...
AHA HA HA...
IT'S MY TREAT. FEEL FREE TO ORDER ANYTHING YOU LIKE!

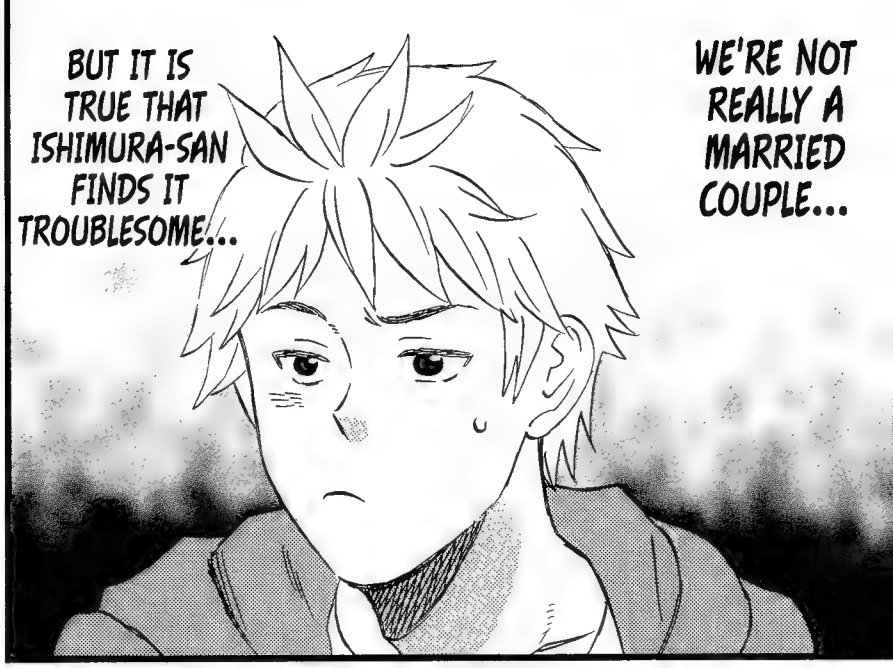
YOU'RE WELCOME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
BUT WELL, I AM THANKFUL.


I'M AWARE THAT PERHAPS YOU DON'T FEEL INCLINED TO DO SO, BUT...
THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY, SO I'LL SAY IT.

IT BOTHERS HER, YOU KNOW.
COULD YOU PLEASE STOP TRYING TO GET INVOLVED WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S WIFE?

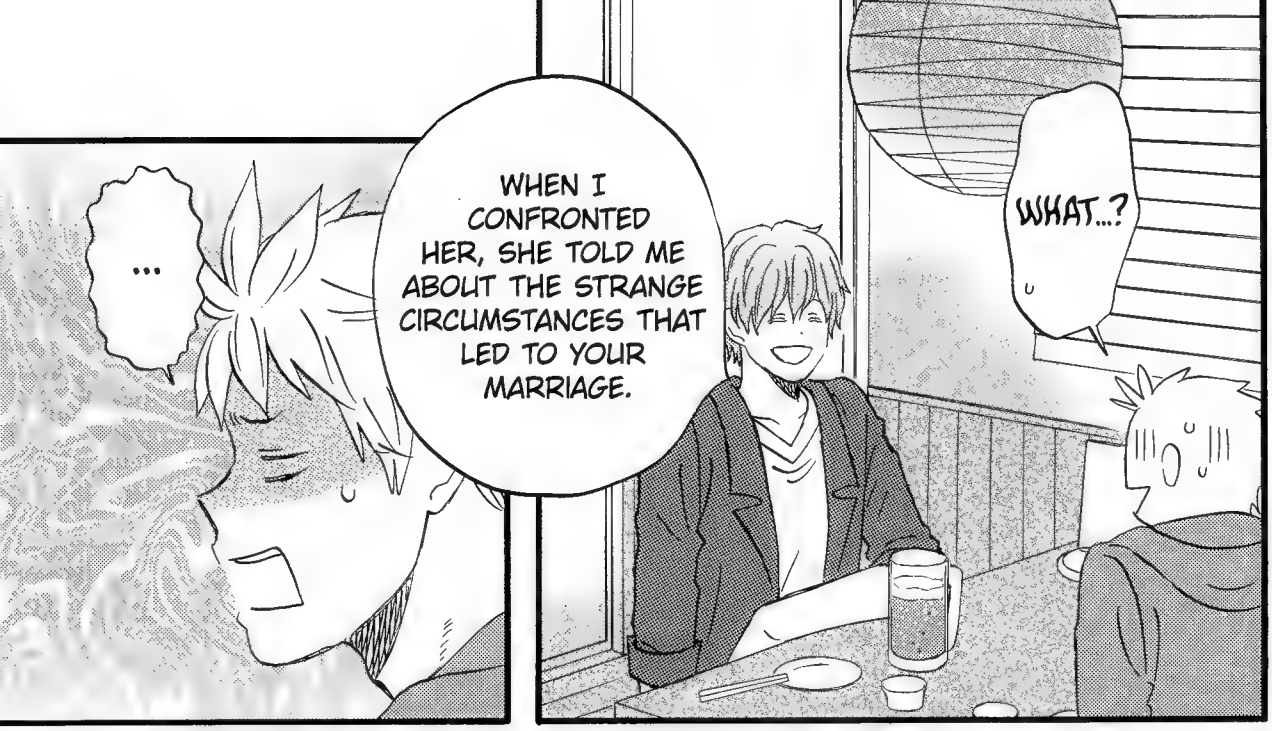
HA HA!
HUH?!

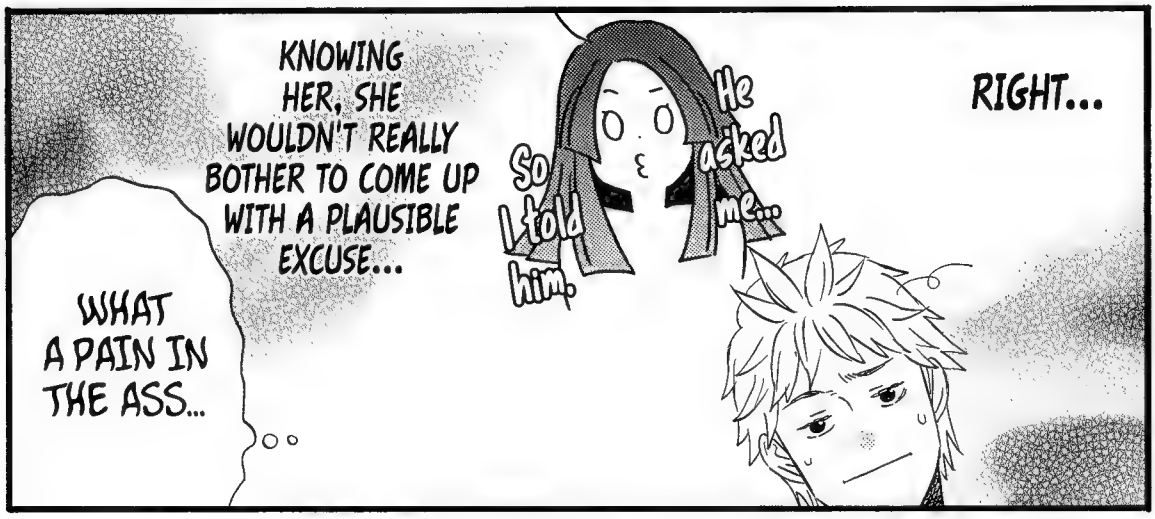

BUT IT IS TRUE THAT ISHIMURA-SAN FINDS IT TROUBLESOME...
WE'RE NOT REALLY A MARRIED COUPLE...

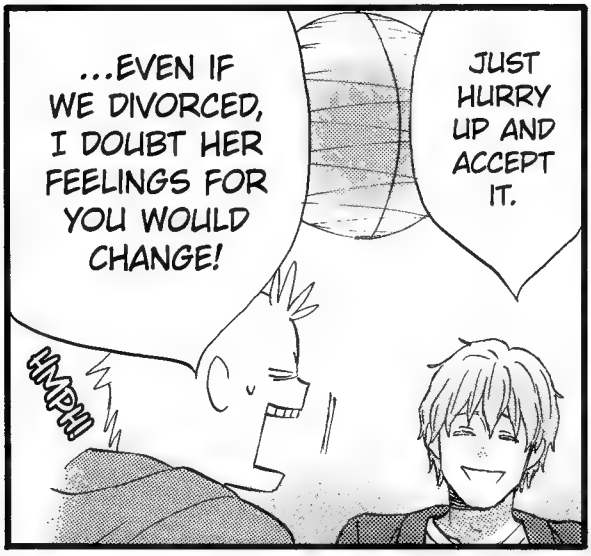
NOTHING. IT'S JUST...
W-WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
Phew...

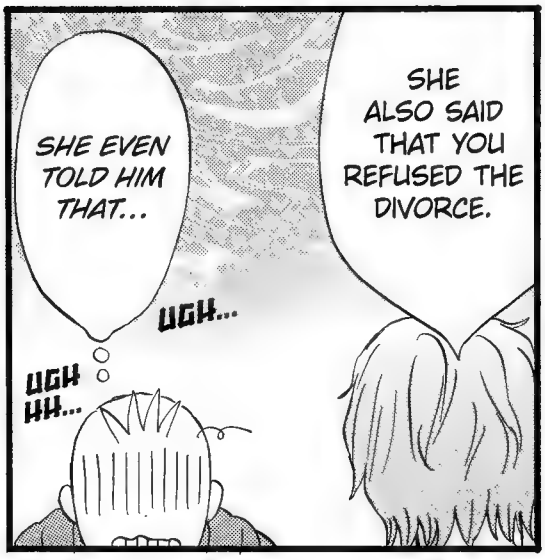
BWA HA HA
HA HA HA HA! SO SCAAARY!
BWA HA HA
DO YOU THINK I'M A RIVAL YOU NEED TO KEEP IN CHECK?

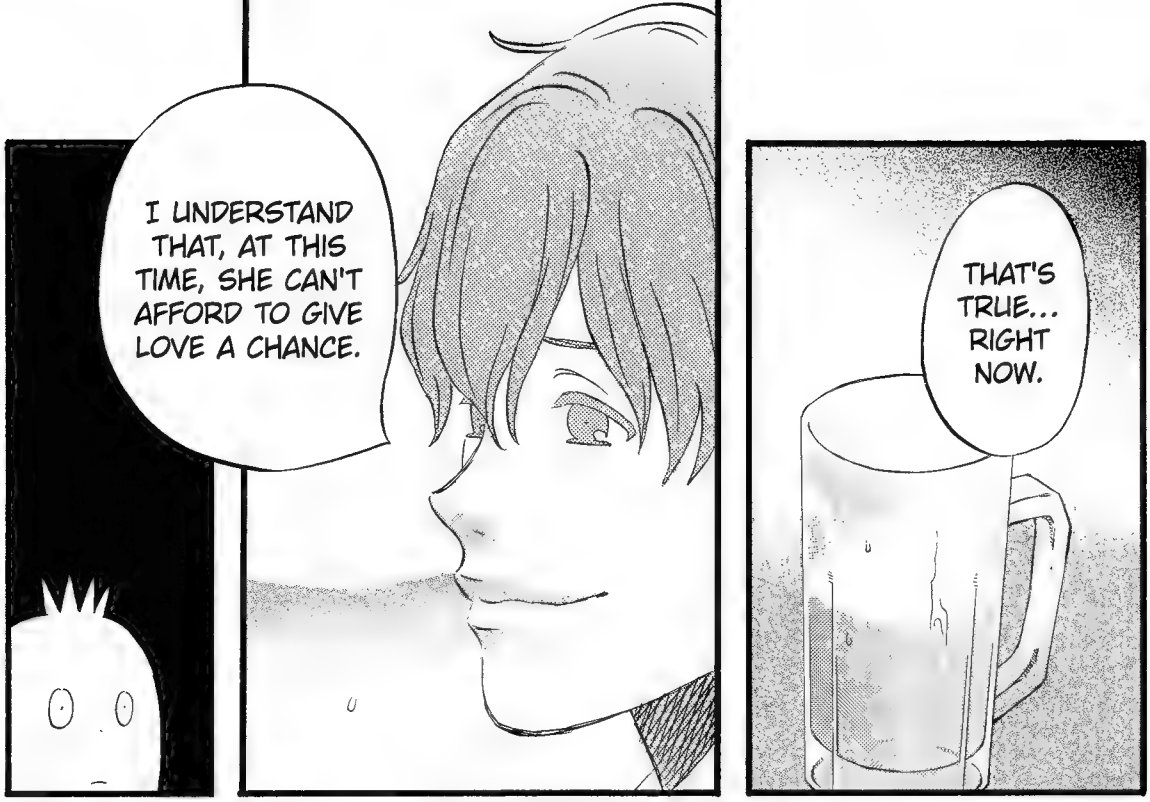
I KNOW THAT YOU AND ISHIMURA ARE NOT A GENUINE COUPLE.

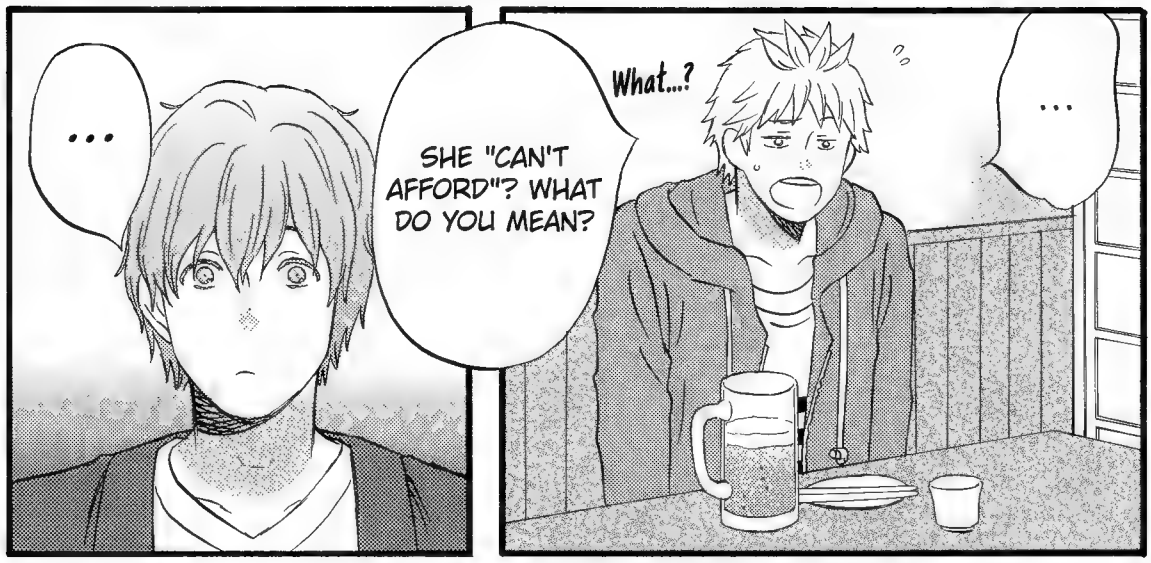

...
WHEN I CONFRONTED HER, SHE TOLD ME ABOUT THE STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO YOUR MARRIAGE.
WHAT...?


KNOWING HER, SHE WOULDN'T REALLY BOTHER TO COME UP WITH A PLAUSIBLE EXCUSE...
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS...
So I told him.
He asked me...
RIGHT...

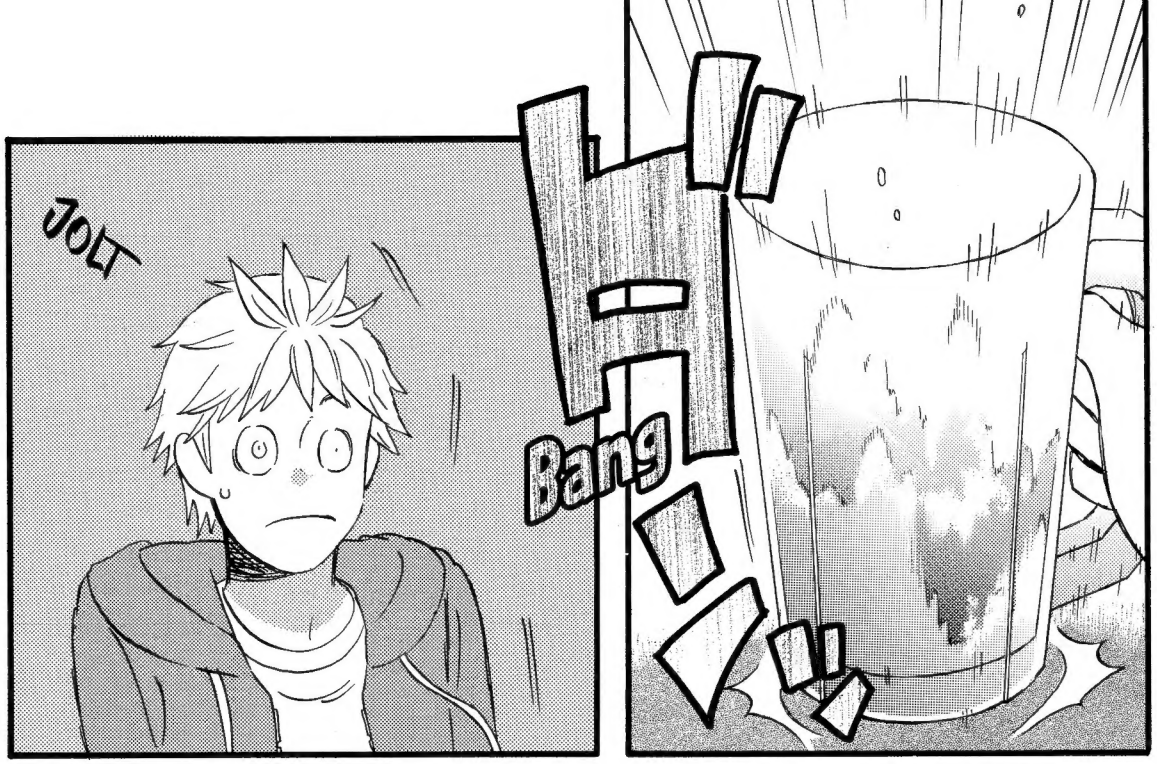

...EVEN IF WE DIVORCED, I DOUBT HER FEELINGS FOR YOU WOULD CHANGE!
JUST HURRY UP AND ACCEPT IT.
HMPH


SHE EVEN TOLD HIM THAT...
SHE ALSO SAID THAT YOU REFUSED THE DIVORCE.
UGH...
UGH HH...

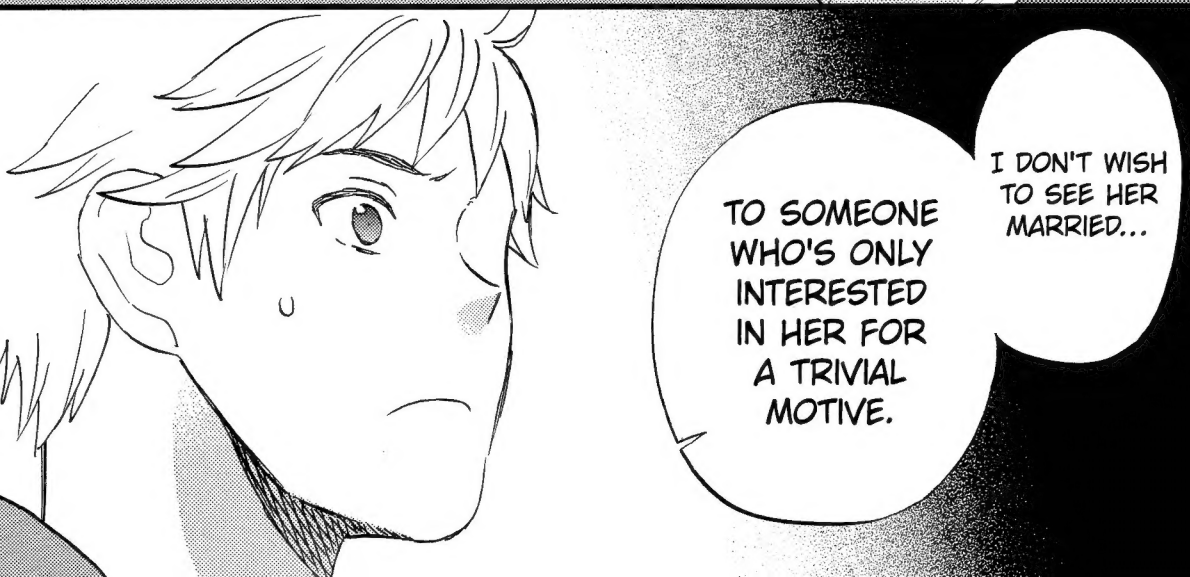

I UNDERSTAND THAT, AT THIS TIME, SHE CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE LOVE A CHANCE.
THAT'S TRUE... RIGHT NOW.


...
SHE "CAN'T AFFORD"? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
What...?
...

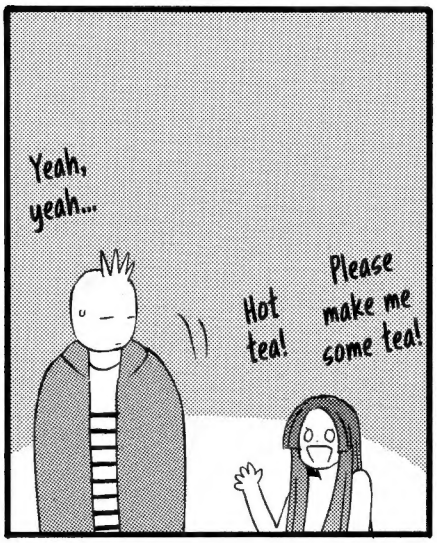
COME ON... NOW I'M CURIOUS!
PLEASE TELL ME!
Ha ha ha!
I SEE... SO YOU DON'T KNOW. THAT'S GOOD.

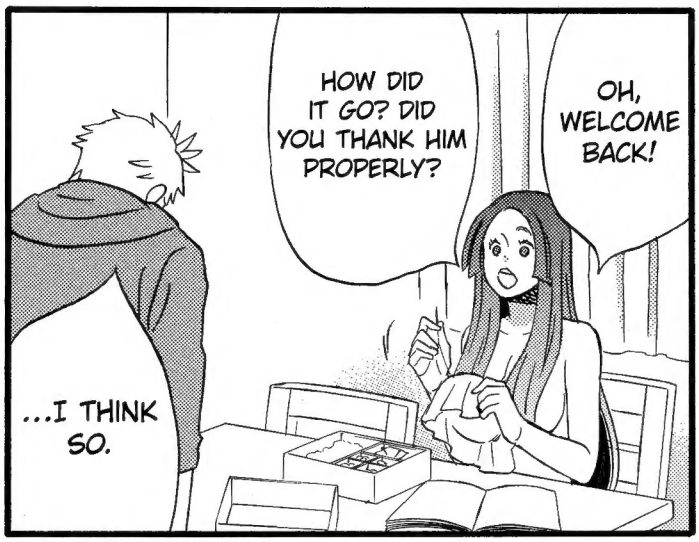

JOLT
Bang

...
IF THE ONLY REASON WHY YOU'RE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE DIVORCE IS BECAUSE OF ISHIMURA-SAN'S LOOKS...
THEN YOU SHOULD BREAK UP WITH HER SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.
SMILE

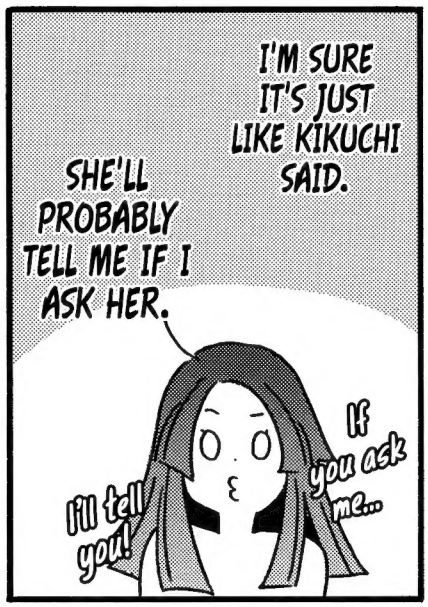

I DON'T WISH TO SEE HER MARRIED...
TO SOMEONE WHO'S ONLY INTERESTED IN HER FOR A TRIVIAL MOTIVE.

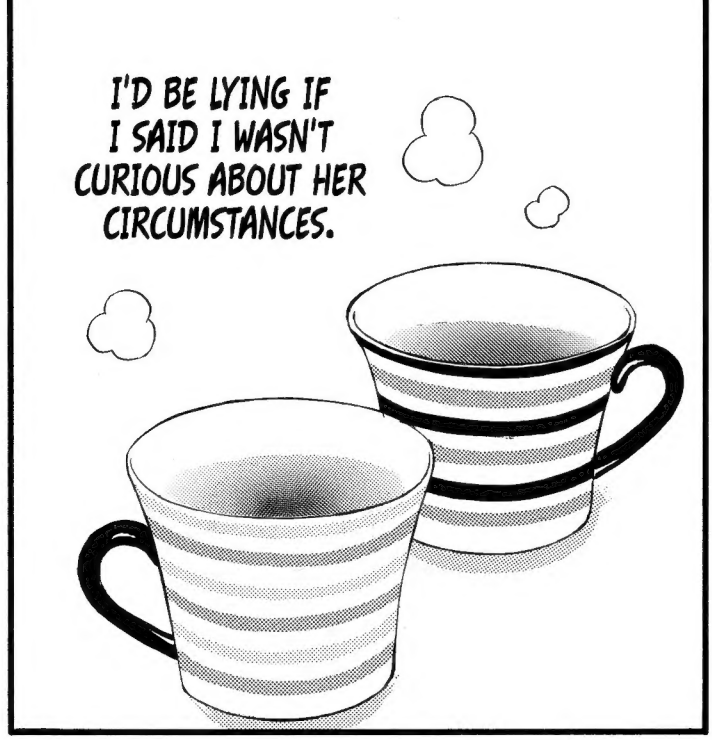
KER-CHAK
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL TODAY.
I'M HOME...
SLAM


Yeah, yeah...
Hot tea!
Please make me some tea!


HOW DID IT GO? DID YOU THANK HIM PROPERLY?
OH, WELCOME BACK!
...I THINK SO.

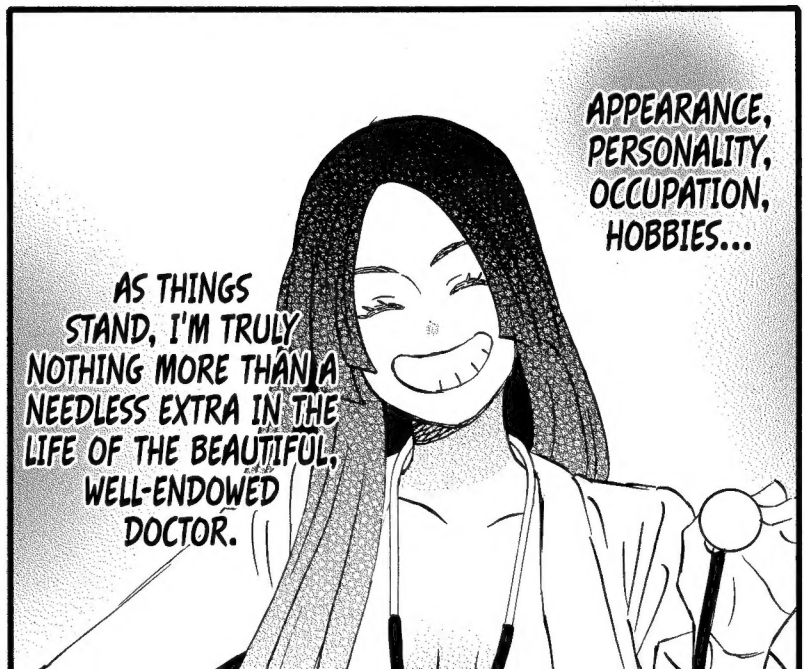
...
ISHIMURA-SAN CAN'T AFFORD IT, HUH...?

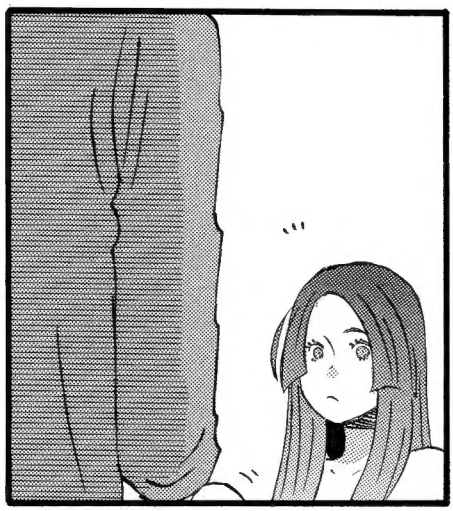

I'M SURE IT'S JUST LIKE KIKUCHI SAID.
SHE'LL PROBABLY TELL ME IF I ASK HER.
I'll tell you!
If you ask me...

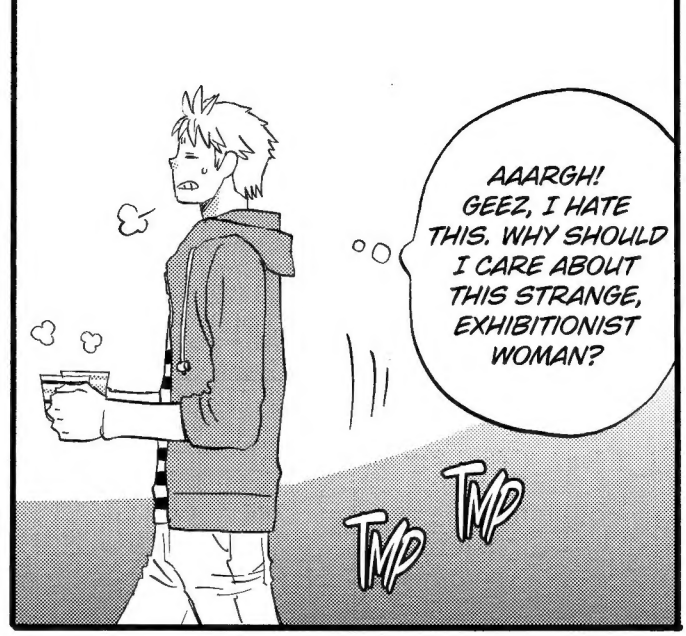

I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I WASN'T CURIOUS ABOUT HER CIRCUMSTANCES.

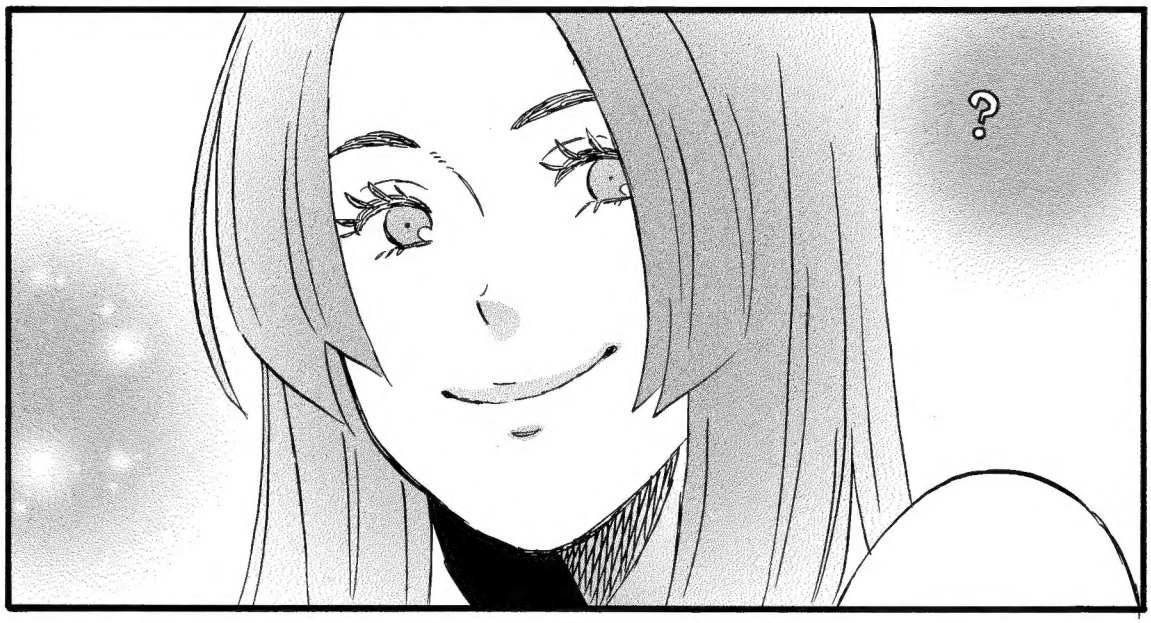
I DON'T GET IT. WHY CAN'T YA JUS' ASK HER?
"WHY"? WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE ...
...

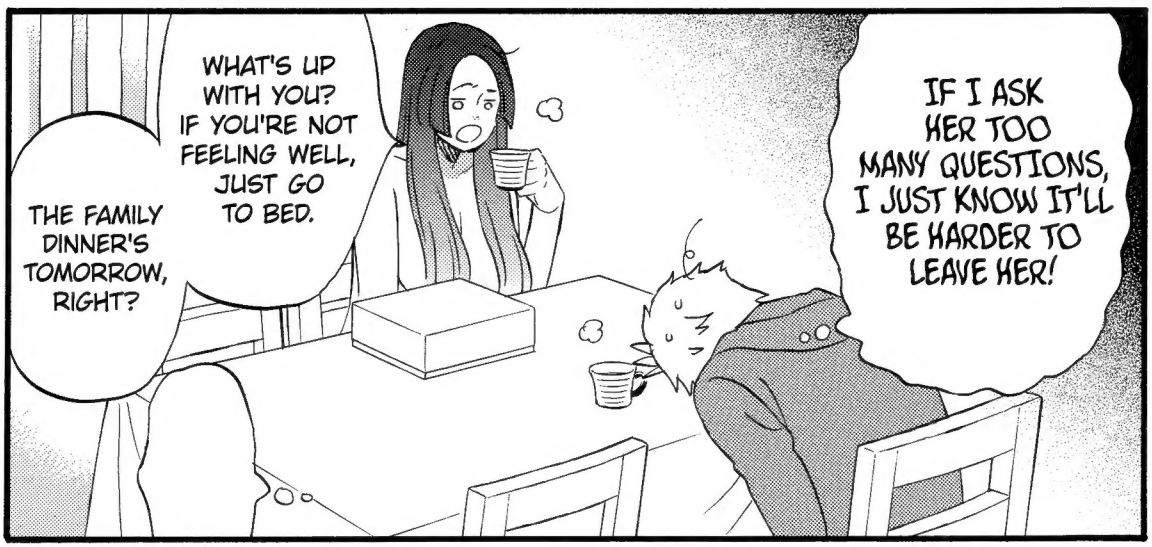
SHIT...
THIS IS NOT AT ALL HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO GO...


APPEARANCE, PERSONALITY, OCCUPATION, HOBBIES...
AS THINGS STAND, I'M TRULY NOTHING MORE THAN A NEEDLESS EXTRA IN THE LIFE OF THE BEAUTIFUL, WELL-ENDOWED DOCTOR.


...


AAARGH! GEEZ, I HATE THIS. WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT THIS STRANGE, EXHIBITIONIST WOMAN?
TMP
TMP


?


THE FAMILY DINNER'S TOMORROW, RIGHT?
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU? IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, JUST GO TO BED.
IF I ASK HER TOO MANY QUESTIONS, I JUST KNOW IT'LL BE HARDER TO LEAVE HER!